

FY 2000 BUDGET - CONGRESSIONAL ACTION – Other Committee Reports

House Agriculture Committee Report – 5/19/99

- Criticizes GSA – “The concept behind rental payments is that all agencies pay the market value of the space they occupy so that GSA will have the funds available to provide, in an efficient and coordinated way, for overall Federal space needs. However, in practice this concept means that agencies are paying prevailing commercial rental rates in order to subsidize the inflated costs of new construction and newly leased space and to cover the cost of vacant space in GSA’s inventory.”
- States USDA has been responsible for managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, and improving its headquarters complex since 1984.
- Allows Agriculture Secretary to transfer not more than 5% of the appropriation to or from another Agriculture agency’s appropriation (not including FDA and Forest Service.)
- Committee expects that a transfer of appropriation will occur only when GSA space is vacated in favor of commercial space and “is not intended merely to finance changes in GSA billing.”

Senate Agriculture Committee Report – 6/17/99

- Directs Agriculture Secretary to work with GSA, Defense, and EPA to maximize purchases of environmentally preferable products.
- Similar criticism as in House Report – “[Agencies] are paying prevailing commercial rental rates in order to subsidize the inflated cost of new construction and newly leased space, and to provide for vacant space in GSA’s inventory.”

House Transportation Committee Report – 6/8/99

- Committee bill provides an increase of 8 % for GSA rental payments from FAA instead of 16.8%. The result is \$6.6 M below budget estimate.

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- Directs FAA to work with the Transportation Administrative Services Center and GSA to ensure that FAA's GSA rental cost are reduced in a fair manner reflecting reduced usage of space in the Nassif building.

Senate Transportation Committee Report - 5/27/99

- Directs Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to submit a recommended Transit Data Base design to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and to GSA for review within 180 days of enactment.

House Interior Committee Report - 7/1/99

- Committee recommends an increase in Interior's external administrative costs, including a \$2.8M increase for GSA space rental.
- Limits and/or prohibits Interior's use of funds for any government-wide administrative functions, specifically GSA telecommunications centers.

Senate Interior Committee Report – 6/24/99

- Directs GSA to prepare a report to Congress evaluating the suitability of the Sidney Yates Building for alternative, broader public access uses.
- The report should also evaluate alternative office locations in the District of Columbia for the U.S. Forest Service.
- Funding for the report shall be provided from any available funds in the Forest Service's general administration account.
- Committee recommends an increase in Interior's external administrative costs, including a \$2M increase for GSA rent.

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House Commerce, Justice, State Committee Report – 7/30/99

- Criticizes GSA - "The Committee understands that GSA is charging NOAA a rental rate far in excess of a normal market approach to value. This distresses the Committee greatly, as the Committee provided millions of dollars of funding for above-standard costs over a period of several years during the construction of the facility, only to find that it is being asked to pay again at what the Department has determined are excessive rental rates. GSA is apparently setting the rental rate to achieve an 8 percent return on investment, and this is apparently the first building to which GSA has applied that standard." The above criticism is regarding the Boulder Facilities Operations.

Senate Commerce, Justice, State Committee Report – 6/10/99

- 21 percent of the judiciary's fiscal 2000 request is for space and facilities. "While the judiciary has made efforts to control GSA space rental growth, GSA rental payments continue to consume a greater portion of the total funds available to the courts."
- No mention of PTO move in the Senate version of the bill or in Committee report.
- Committee takes note that the Administrative Office of the United States Courts has \$3M contract to study courtroom utilization. The Committee expects those funds to be used for the study in FY2000.

House District Committee Report – 7/20/99

- Committee requests a report from the Mayor comparing the cost of operating the DC motor vehicle fleet with the cost of obtaining vehicles from the Federal fleet. Data should be obtained from GSA.
- Re Federal Payments to the DC Courts: "Committee does not expect the US Treasury to make any lump sum payments to the Courts, or to the GSA on behalf of the Courts, for the purpose of holding those funds in a private bank account." Funds are to remain in the US Treasury until checks issued

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based on vouchers certified by the courts to pay for goods and services clear through the banking system.

Senate District Committee Report – 6/24/99

- Directs D.C. courts to submit monthly reports through GSA to Senate and House Committees on Appropriations on status of obligations by object class and a monthly personnel summary by position.
- The Lorton Correctional Complex closure plan is currently on schedule. The prison facilities will close by December 31, 2001.

District Conference Report - 8/5/99

- Payroll and financial services to be provided by GSA. Services include preparation of monthly financial reports submitted to the President and Congress.

Senate Legislative Committee Report - 6/10/99

- The aggregate amount that may be paid for the acquisition of furniture, equipment, and other office furnishings provided by GSA for a Senator increased to \$40,000 if the aggregate square feet of office space is not in excess of 5,000 square feet. The amount is increased by \$1,000 for each authorized incremental increase of office space of 200 square feet.
- GSA shall provide to the Trade Deficit Review Commission on a reimbursable basis such administrative support as the Commission may request.

Legislative Conference Report - 8/4/99

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- Committee understands that the responsibilities for the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) will be transferred from the General Accounting Office (GAO) to the GSA, and have altered GAO appropriating language accordingly.

House VA/HUD Committee Report - 7/30/99

- Funding for GSA Consumer Information Center (CIC) approved as requested.
- Committee notes that the Director's grade of position does not appear to reflect the responsibilities of the position. GSA is to review the classification level of the position of Director of the CIC and provide recommendation to Committee with the FY2001 budget. Similar language is included in the Treasury Post Office report.
- Committee acknowledges it may have to provide additional appropriated dollars to the CIC Fund prior to the start of FY2001.